MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
Land Management Administration • Solid Waste Program
1800 Washington Boulevard • Suite 610 • Baltimore Maryland 21230-1719
410-537-3315 • 800-633-6101 x3315 • www.mde.state.md.us

Guidance for Managing Collapsed Poultry and Livestock Houses or Manure Storage Structures Due to the Recent Snowstorms – February 2010

Due to the recent snowfall, many structures on poultry and livestock farms have been collapsing because of the weight of the snow. To reduce the environmental impact of the demolition debris and manure exposed to the elements, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) offers the following guidance:

I. **What should I do with the debris and any mortality?**

A. Separate any potentially hazardous or other unacceptable materials from the non-hazardous materials.

1. Most construction materials are non-hazardous.
2. Hazardous materials may include liquid chemicals such as pesticides and herbicides, asbestos.
3. Any bulk liquids (i.e., greater than 1 gallon containers, or numerous smaller containers) such as paint, solvents, animal feed supplements, etc. should also be segregated and stored so that they do not release liquid to the environment if leaked. Landfills cannot accept liquid waste.

B. Separate the mortalities from the construction debris and follow next section of the Guidance.

1. Have the demolition debris hauled to a permitted local landfill.

a). Empty barns/chicken houses/manure storage sheds that collapse:

- The building materials are demolition debris, and must be transported to a permitted disposal facility once the weather clears.
- If the building materials, mortalities and chicken litter cannot be separated, all of these can be taken to a permitted municipal landfill as long as they are reasonably dry or moist, but not dripping wet. Landfills cannot accept liquid waste.
- Recycling options are also available.
- Residual poultry litter must be properly stored and managed.

b). Barns/chicken houses with animals present:

- Sort and segregate the dead animals and follow guidance for composting of the carcasses as described in the Maryland Department of Agriculture fact sheet located on their website at http://www.mda.state.md.us/article.php?i=23841.
- Alternatively, deceased animals may be transported to a permitted municipal landfill or permitted incinerator as soon as possible.
- Demolition debris is to be stockpiled and managed once the weather clears.
- Poultry litter must be collected and properly stored and managed. If an onsite manure storage building is not available and the AFO does not anticipate access to proper storage or the ability to utilize the manure in accordance with a nutrient management plan within 14 days for a CAFO or 90 days for a MAFO or other AFOs, the manure/litter must be temporarily stored by placing it on an impermeable tarp and covering it

with a well-secured, impermeable plastic tarp that prevents infiltration and runoff from the pile. The manure must be used in accordance with a nutrient management plan or disposed of properly when the weather clears.
- Alternatively, the reasonably dry or moist, but not dripping wet poultry litter may be taken to a permitted municipal landfill. Landfills cannot accept liquid waste.

2. For barns where it is impossible to segregate the animals, e.g. multi-layer laying houses, contact the Solid Waste Program at 410-537-3318 or via email at edexter@mde.state.md.us.

II. **When I rebuild, is the new construction considered a new source and subject to the new source design criteria for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO)?**
If you replace an existing structure on the same location, it is NOT a new source as long as you are not replacing the entire source of any discharge in the production area (chicken houses and manure storage buildings). If you are rebuilding the entire facility, then the new facility must adhere to the new source design criteria which can be found on the MDE website's CAFO/MAFO webpage under "Other Documents of Interest", located at http://www.mde.state.md.us/Programs/LandPrograms/Solid_Waste/cafo/index.asp.

For further information on CAFO operations, please contact Gary Kelman, CAFO Unit Manager, 410-537-4423 or via email at gkelman@mde.state.md.us.